Baggage lifters' gang at cargo terminal of Delhi airport

2486. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION & TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a baggage lifters' gang at the cargo terminal of Delhi airport was recently, busted which include some employees of IA & AI; and

(b) if so, the details of the action Government propose to take to weed out such employees?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The concerned employees have been arrested and police investigation in the matter is in progress. The employees have been placed under suspension pending launching of appropriate action against them by their employers.

Inadequate air services in Rajasthan

2487. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the major constraints in attracting large number of foreign tourists in Rajasthan is inadequacy of air services in that State;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any decision so far to provide air linkages to (i) Bombay, Surat, Sirohi, Bhilwara, Jaipur, Ahmedabad, (ii) Delhi, Jhunjhnu, Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur (iii) Delhi, Jaipur, Ajmer; and (iv) Udaipur, Ahmedabad, Bombay;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government have so far, taken any action on Government of Rajasthan's repeated request for upgrading air port facilities at Jaipur, Jodhpur and Udaipur, particularly, for raising Jaipur Airport's status as an "International Airport" if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and by when the decision for modernisation/upgradation is likely to be taken by his Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Flights are operated by airlines depending upon availability of operating aircraft and crew, traffic demand and potential to sustain economically viable operations. At present Indian Airlines are operating regular services for (i) Bombay-Jaipur (ii) Delhi-Jodhpur (iii) Delhi-Jaipur and (iv) Udaipur-Bombay sectors. There are no immediate plans to operate Indian Airlines flights to rest of the sectors.

(d) National Airports Authority have plans to extend the runways at Jaipur and Udaipur to 7500ft and provide extension of Terminal buildings at Jaipur and Jodhpur. Besides, Jaipur has been selected for upgradation as a model airport. There is no proposal at present to declare Jaipur as an international airport. The existing international airports at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Trivandrum are considered adequate to cater to the needs of international traffic.

Threat of strike by Flight Congress Association of Air India

2488. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Flight Congress Association have threatened to report to strike and absent from duty of Air India flights; and